

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section to form an image and having a plurality of second print boards; and
a control section to control the image forming section, and having a first print board including a data processing device,
wherein each of the plurality of second print boards comprises a printed circuit board, parts mounted on the printed circuit board and a memory device for memorizing life information of the parts.
2. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the memory device is nonvolatile, and the life information can be written in and read out from each of the plurality of the second print boards by the data processing device.
3. An image forming apparatus of claim 2, wherein data to be written by the data processing device is at least one of a time period of energized state, a number of times of energizing, a date of latest use, and failure information of the plurality of the second print boards.

20061026-013000

4. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data processing device and each of the memory devices of the plurality of the second print boards are connected through a serial bus or a parallel bus.

5. A plurality of print boards for use in an image forming apparatus, each of the plurality of print boards comprising:

a memory device for memorizing life information of a part installed on each of the plurality of print boards; and

a interface, which is unified for the plurality of print boards, to make possible reading out and clearing of the life information and writing and reading out of the number of times of reuse by an external part life inspection apparatus.

6. The plurality of print boards of claim 5, wherein the life information includes at least one of a time period of energized state, a number of times of energizing, a latest date of use, failure information, a number of prints produced.

7. The plurality of print board of claim 5, wherein the memory device is nonvolatile.

8. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the memory device memorizes a security code together with the life information.

9. The image forming apparatus of claim 8, wherein the security code is encrypted.

10. The image forming apparatus of claim 8, wherein the security code can be rewritten by the image forming apparatus or by an external part life inspection apparatus.

11. The image forming apparatus of claim 10, wherein the security code is encrypted.

12. The image forming apparatus of claim 8, wherein the memory device comprises:

a first memory area provided with first protect means such that rewriting can be done by an external part life inspection apparatus but cannot be done by the image forming apparatus;

a second memory area provided with second protect means such that rewriting can be done by the image forming

apparatus but cannot be done by the external part life inspection apparatus; and

a third memory area where data can be rewritten by both of the image forming apparatus and the external part life inspection apparatus; wherein the first memory area memorizes first life information and a first security code including an ID code and an allowed model code, the second memory area memorizes a second life information, and the third memory area memorizes a second security code (USE code).

13. The image forming apparatus of claim 12, wherein the control section reads out the life information and the security code from the memory device, and makes a judgment whether or not the model code memorized in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code agree with each other.

14. The image forming apparatus of claim 13, wherein the control section reads out firstly the first security code out of the first security code and the second security code.

15. The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control section further comprises a display unit to display a

result of the judgment if the control section makes a judgment that the model code memorized in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code do not agree with each other.

16. The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein if the control section makes judgment that the model code memorized in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code do not agree with each other, the display unit displays a result of the judgment and the control section prohibits an image forming operation.

17. The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein if the control section makes a judgment that the model code memorized in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code do not agree with each other, the control section transmits a result of the judgment to a managing person through a network line or through a telephone line.

18. The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second memory area is rewritten on the basis of the result of the judgment.